

Abstract of the Disclosure

A friction clutch mechanism for a draft gear assembly includes a pair of outer stationary plate members, a pair of movable plate members, a pair of inner stationary plate members
5 having an inner surface which is tapered at an angle of approximately 4.5° , a pair of wedge shoe members having an upper surface which is tapered from a point disposed inwardly from the tapered outer surface inwardly toward and at an acute angle relative to a longitudinal axis of the friction clutch
10 mechanism, and a center wedge member which includes a pair of correspondingly tapered surfaces frictionally engageable with the upper tapered surface of a respective one of the pair of wedge shoe members. The tapered upper surface of the pair of wedge shoe members is tapered at an angle of approximately
15 49.0° - 50.0° . The pair of tapered surfaces of the center wedge is tapered at an angle of about 49.5° .